WHAT IS CLAIMED AS NEW AND DESIRED TO BE SECURED BY LETTERS PATENT OF THE UNITED STATES IS:

1. A method of processing messages, comprising the steps of:

receiving an electronic mail message by a computer;

determining whether the message which has been received is for a device associated with the computer; and

transmitting a communication from the computer to the device, when the step of determining determines that the message is for the device.

2. A method according to claim 1, wherein the determining step comprises:

determining whether the message which has been received is for the device or whether the message which has been received has been received has a user of the computer as an end recipient.

3. A method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of:

displaying, after the receiving step, a message to the user indicating the electronic mail message contains information to be forwarded to the device,

wherein the determining step comprises:

determining, by a user reading the message which has been displayed, whether the message which has been received is for the device.

4. A method according to claim 3, further comprising the step of:

executing a command which causes the step of transmitting to be performed.

5. A method according to claim 4, wherein the executing step comprises:

executing program code of a file which is attached to the message by a manual action by the user.

-36-

6. A method according to claim 5, wherein the executing step comprises:

executing the program code of the file by pointing, using a pointing device and a graphical user interface, to an object representing the file.

7. A method according to claim 6, wherein the executing step comprises:

executing the code by pressing a button while pointing to the object representing the file.

8. A method according to claim 1, wherein the receiving step comprises:

receiving an Internet electronic mail message.

9. A method according to claim 4, wherein:

the step of executing a command comprises transmitting information to a device driver executing within the computer; and

the step of transmitting is performed using the device driver.

10. A method according to claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

receiving, by the device, the communication transmitted from the computer; and

transmitting parameters from the device to the computer, in response to the communication which has been received by the device.

11. A method according to claim 10, further comprising the step of:

performing a mechanical action by the device, in response to the communication which has been received by the device.

12. A method according to claim 1, wherein the determining step comprises:

determining that the message is for a device automatically by detecting a characteristic of the email.

-37-

13. A method according to claim 12, wherein the determining step comprises:

determining that the message is for a device automatically by detecting a code within the message.

14. A method according to claim 13, wherein the determining step comprises:

5        determining that the message is for a device automatically by detecting the code which is the subject of the message.

15. A method according to claim 13, wherein the determining step comprises:

determining that the message is for a device automatically by detecting the code which is in a body of the message.

16. A method according to claim 12, wherein the determining step is performed in response to a receipt of an incoming electronic mail message.

17. A method according to claim 16, wherein the determining step is performed in response to a receipt of an incoming electronic mail message which is detected by monitoring an existence of a file stored at a predetermined location in memory.

18. A method of transmitting, comprising the steps of:

transmitting information from a device to a computer;

processing the information by a device driver within the computer; and

transmitting, by the computer, an electronic mail message corresponding to the information.

20        19. A method according to claim 18, further comprising the step of:

transmitting the information from the device driver to a messaging application programming interface (MAPI) of the computer; and

processing the information by the MAPI,

wherein the step of transmitting the electronic mail message comprises transmitting

the electronic mail message corresponding to the information which has been processed by

the MAPI.

20. A method according to claim 18, wherein:

the computer is a message transfer agent,

the step of transmitting information from the device transmits the information from

the device directly to the computer which is the message transfer agent, and

the step of transmitting the electronic mail message transmits the electronic mail

message using a TCP connection from the computer which is a message transfer agent.

21. A method according to claim 18, wherein the processing step comprises:

creating a file corresponding to the information; and

writing the file to a mail spool directory of the computer, and

wherein the step of transmitting the electronic mail message comprises transmitting

the electronic mail message corresponding to the information using the file stored in the mail

spool directory.

22. A method according to claim 21, wherein:

the step of creating and writing comprises creating a plurality of files and writing the

plurality of files in the mail spool directory; and

the step of transmitting comprises transmitting the electronic mail message using each

of the plurality of files stored in the mail spool directory.

23. A system for processing messages, comprising:

means, associated with a computer, for receiving an electronic mail message;

-39-

means for determining whether the message which has been received is for a device

associated with the computer; and

means for transmitting a communication from the computer to the device, when the

means for determining determines that the message is for the device.

24. A system according to claim 23, wherein the means for determining comprises:

means for determining whether the message which has been received is for the device

or whether the message which has been received has been received has a user of the computer

as an end recipient.

25. A system according to claim 23, further comprising:

means for displaying a message to the user indicating the electronic mail message

contains information to be forwarded to the device,

wherein the means for determining comprises:

means for determining, by a user reading the message which has been displayed,

whether the message which has been received is for the device.

26. A system according to claim 25, further comprising:

means for executing a command which causes the means for transmitting to operate.

27. A system according to claim 26, wherein the means for executing comprises:

means for executing program code of a file which is attached to the message by a

manual action by the user.

28. A system according to claim 27, wherein the means for executing comprises:

means for executing the program code of the file by pointing, using a pointing device

and a graphical user interface, to an object representing the file.

29. A system according to claim 28, wherein the means for executing comprises:

means for executing the code by pressing a button while pointing to the object representing the file.

30. A system according to claim 23, wherein the means for receiving comprises:

means for receiving an Internet electronic mail message.

31. A system according to claim 26, wherein:

the means for executing a command comprises means for transmitting information to a device driver executing within the computer; and

the means for transmitting operates using the device driver.

32. A system according to claim 23, further comprising:

means for receiving, by the device, the communication transmitted from the computer; and

means for transmitting parameters from the device to the computer, in response to the communication which has been received by the device.

33. A system according to claim 32, further comprising:

means for performing a mechanical action by the device, in response to the communication which has been received by the device.

34. A system according to claim 23, wherein the means for determining comprises:

means for determining that the message is for a device automatically by detecting a characteristic of the email.

35. A system according to claim 34, wherein the means for determining comprises:

means for determining that the message is for a device automatically by detecting a code within the message.

-41-

36. A system according to claim 35, wherein the means for determining comprising:

means for determining that the message is for a device automatically by detecting the code which is the subject of the message.

37. A system according to claim 35, wherein the means for determining comprises:

means for determining that the message is for a device automatically by detecting the code which is in a body of the message.

38. A system according to claim 35, wherein the means for determining operates in response to a receipt of an incoming electronic mail message.

39. A system according to claim 38, wherein the means for determining operates in response to a receipt of an incoming electronic mail message which is detected by monitoring an existence of a file stored at a predetermined location in memory.

40. A system of transmitting, comprising:

means for transmitting information from a device to a computer;

means for processing the information by a device driver within the computer; and

means for transmitting, by the computer, an electronic mail message corresponding to the information.

41. A system according to claim 40, further comprising:

means for transmitting the information from the device driver to a messaging application programming interface (MAPI) of the computer; and

means for processing the information by the MAPI,

wherein the means for transmitting the electronic mail message comprises means for transmitting the electronic mail message corresponding to the information which has been processed by the MAPI.

42. A system according to claim 40, wherein:

the computer is a message transfer agent,

the means for transmitting information from the device transmits the information from the device directly to the computer which is the message transfer agent, and

the means for transmitting the electronic mail message transmits the electronic mail message using a TCP connection from the computer which is a message transfer agent.

43. A system according to claim 40, wherein the means for processing comprises:

means for creating a file corresponding to the information; and

means for writing the file to a mail spool directory of the computer, and

wherein the means for transmitting the electronic mail message comprises means for transmitting the electronic mail message corresponding to the information using the file stored in the mail spool directory.

44. A system according to claim 43, wherein:

the means for creating and writing comprises means for creating a plurality of files and writing the plurality of files in the mail spool directory; and

the means for transmitting comprises means for transmitting the electronic mail message using each of the plurality of files stored in the mail spool directory.